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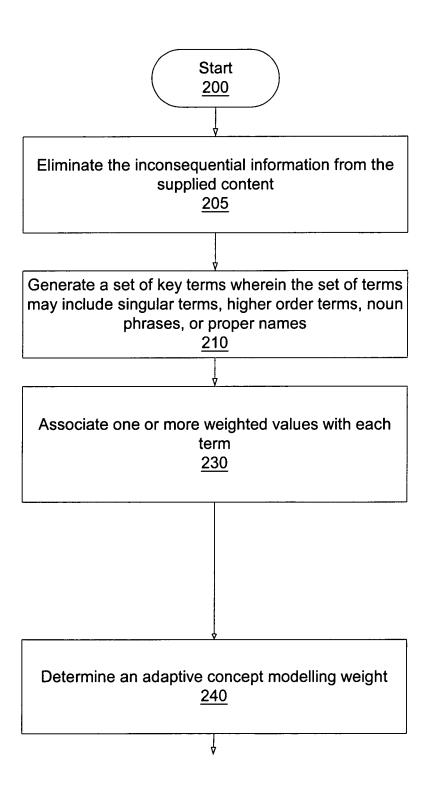


Figure 2a

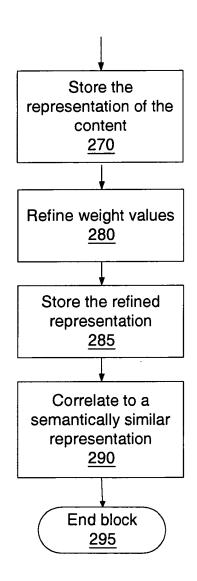
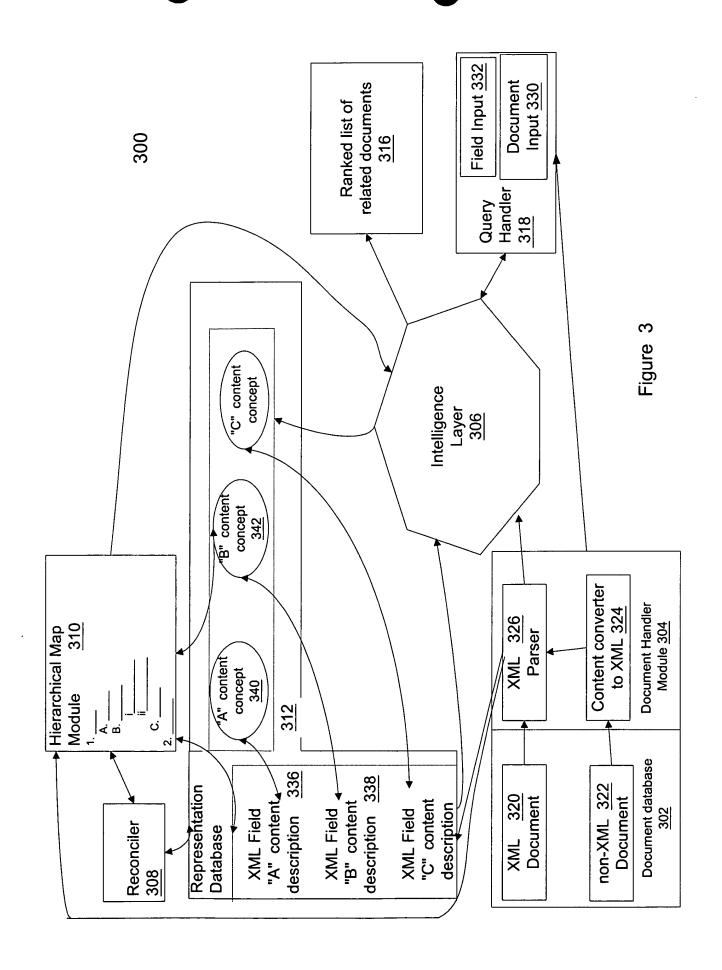


Figure 2b



Start 400

Select a reference extensible markup language document from a group of documents in a database 405

A user may submit the reference extensible markup language document to an engine for analysis
410

A particular field or particular fields in the reference extensible markup language document may be specified by the user at the time a query is generated to be the source of the content for a query

415

Create a first representation associated with content in a reference document or optionally content associated with a particular field in the reference document

420

A particular field or particular fields to be searched in the related documents may be specified at the time the query is generated 425

Execute a query on the content associated with the reference extensible markup language document, optionally, without a user having to request the query for the reference extensible markup language document 430

Figure 4a

Create or retrieve a second representation associated with content in a related document

435

Reconcile differing XML schemas if the reference extensible markup language document has a first extensible markup language schema, and the related extensible markup language documents has a second extensible markup language schema

440

Compare the similarity between the first representation and the second representation, including the semantic similarity

445

Repeat the earlier steps 430 to 445 for all of the reference documents searched in order to compare the similarity between the first representation and the representations for all of the reference documents.

450

Generate a ranked list of one or more related documents, the ranked list of one or more related documents may include references to relevant fields within each related document, the one or more related documents ranked based upon relevance to a first representation of content associated the reference extensible markup language document

455

Generate a link, optionally a hyperlink, to each of the one or more related documents and, optionally, to the relevant fields within the related documents.

460 End 499

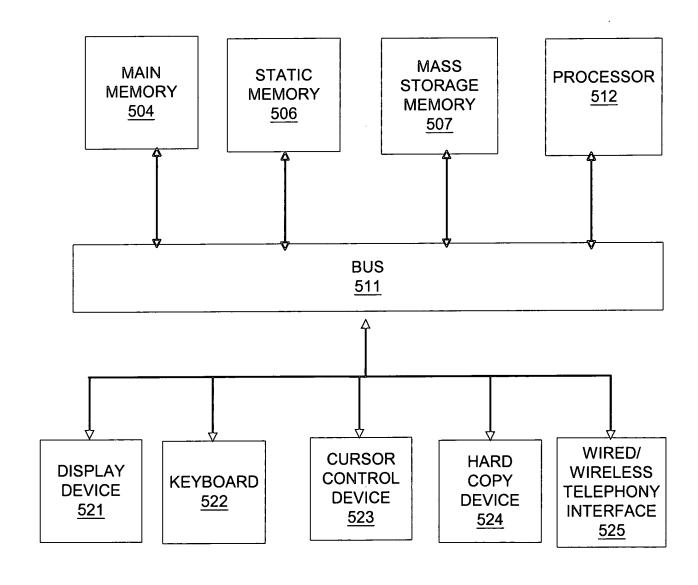


Figure 5

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